

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 3 and 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended. Please find provided below a single complete listing of all the claims in the application, marked to show their status and current changes, pursuant to MPEP § 714.

Claim 1. (currently amended): An electrical connector comprising a pin connector and a socket connector, said pin connector including a plurality of pin contacts, a required number of ~~grand~~ ground contacts and a block for holding said pin and ground contacts, said block including a fitting side and a connecting side for connecting to a board, and said socket connector including a plurality of socket contacts, a required number of ground contacts and a housing for holding said socket and ground contacts,

wherein said block and housing are each formed from an insulating plastic material and formed with contact insertion apertures into which said contacts are inserted, and said block and housing each have metalized surfaces fully around said contact insertion apertures in a manner to electrically ~~insulate~~ shield said contact insertion apertures for pin and socket contacts independently from one another,

wherein said block of said pin connector is formed with grooves on either one, or both, of the fitting side of said block and the connecting side to a board to make independent said pin contacts from one another, while said block is provided with at least one groove portion around said ground contacts and with at least one further groove portion to communicate said at least one groove portion with said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts, and wherein said housing of said socket connector is formed with groove portions on the fitting side of said housing to make independent said socket contacts from one another, while said housing is provided with at least one groove or groove portion around said ground contacts, and

wherein said block of said pin connector is metallized on its surfaces around said contact insertion apertures for said pin contacts, while said ground contacts are each arranged between the pin contacts in columns or rows, and wherein said housing of said socket connector is metallized on its surfaces around said contact insertion apertures for said socket contacts, while said ground contacts of said socket connector are arranged in positions corresponding to those of said ground contacts of said pin connector.

Claim 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4. (original): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pin contacts of said pin connector form respective pairs of pin contacts, each consisting of the two pin contacts, and said block of the pin connector is formed with grooves on either, or both, of the fitting side of said block and the connecting side to a board to make independent the pairs of pin contacts from one another, while said block is provided with at least one groove around said ground contacts and with at least one further groove portion to communicate said at least one groove with said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts, and wherein said socket contacts of said socket connector form respective pairs of socket contacts, each consisting of the two socket contacts, and said housing of said socket connector is formed with grooves or groove portions on the fitting side of said housing to make independent the pairs of socket contacts from one another, while said housing is provided with at least one groove or groove portion around said ground contacts.

Claim 5 (original): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 4 wherein said block of said pin connector is metallized on its surfaces around pairs of said contact insertion apertures for said pin contacts, while said ground contacts are each arranged between two pairs of pin contacts in columns or rows, and wherein said housing of said socket connector is metallized on its surfaces around pairs of said contact insertion apertures for said socket contacts, while said ground contacts of said socket connector are arranged in positions corresponding to those of said ground contacts of said pin connector.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pin contacts of said pin connector form respective ~~one pair~~ sets of pin contacts, each consisting of ~~a plurality~~ three or more of the pin contacts, and said block of the pin connector is formed with grooves on either, or both, of the fitting side of said block and the connecting side to a board to make independent the sets of the pin contacts from one another, while said block is provided with at least one groove around said ground contacts and with at least one further groove to communicate said at least one groove with said contact insertion apertures for said

ground contacts, and wherein said socket contacts of said socket connector form respective sets of the socket contacts, each consisting ~~a plurality~~ three or more of the socket contacts, and said housing of said socket connector is formed with grooves on the fitting side of said housing to make independent the sets of the socket contacts from one another, while said housing is provided with at least one groove around said ground contacts.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 6 wherein said block of said pin connector is metallized on its surfaces around sets of said contact insertion apertures for said ~~pair~~ sets of pin contacts, while said ground contacts are each arranged between two sets of said pin contacts in columns or rows, and wherein said housing of said socket connector is metallized on its surfaces around sets of said contact insertion apertures for said sets of socket contacts, while said ground contacts of said socket connector are arranged in positions corresponding to those of said ground contacts of said pin connector.

Claim 8-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claims 5 wherein said housing of said socket connector comprises a main portion in the form of a substantially flat plate, and a plurality of projections extending from said main portion, said contact insertion apertures passing through said main portion and said projections, and said main portion and said projections are metallized on their substantially entire surfaces so as to allow said contact insertion apertures for said socket contacts to be electrically insulated independently from one another.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 7 wherein said housing of said socket connector comprises a main portion in the form of a substantially flat plate, and a plurality of projections extending from said main portion, said contact insertion apertures passing through said main portion and said projections, and said main portion and said projections are metallized on their substantially entire surfaces so as to allow said contact insertion apertures for said socket contacts to be electrically insulated independently from one another.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts only are metallized.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 7 wherein said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts only are metallized.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 4 wherein said at least one further groove provided in said block of said pin connector for communicating said at least one groove with said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts extends parallel with or normal to a row or column of said ground contacts or is plus or cross-shaped or X-shaped.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The electrical connector as set forth in claim 6 wherein said at least one further groove provided in said block of said pin connector for communicating said at least one groove with said contact insertion apertures for said ground contacts extends parallel with or normal to a row or column of said ground contacts or is plus or cross-shaped or X-shaped.